

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY

Subject

Small Wastewater Treatment Facilities

**Policy
Number**

I-78

Page

1 of 3

Purpose

To establish a policy for location of future small wastewater treatment facilities.

Definition

For the purpose of this policy, a small wastewater treatment facility is any facility with a capacity of up to 2,000 equivalent dwelling units or approximately 0.56 million gallons per day.

Background

Two goals of the County General Plan are:

- Locate future urban growth within and adjacent to existing urban areas and retain the rural setting and life-style of the remaining portions of the unincorporated areas.
- Phase growth with essential facilities.

It is the intent of the Land Use Element to limit extension of urban services into the Estate Development and Rural Areas of the County.

In order to assure that growth and facilities are properly phased with each other in a manner consistent with regional objectives, an Areawide Water Quality Management Plan (208 Plan) assessed the needs and prioritized the development of facilities involved in the treatment of reclaimed wastewater.

Due to capacity constraints and restrictions of existing treatment facilities, requests for localized or on-site small wastewater treatment plants are often made for development proposals. These small facilities were not anticipated to be used for isolated pockets of development in the Estate and Rural Development land use categories in the County. Small facilities properly planned and designed can provide water reclamation and orderly growth, while reducing demands on coastal sewage treatment and disposal facilities.

If such facilities are not properly planned and designed, they can disrupt the Estate and Rural Development land use categories, promote other urban services, and reduce the viability of subregional facilities by fragmenting the effluent generation sources.

Policy

It is the policy of the Board of Supervisors that:

Construction of small wastewater treatment facilities will be subject to all appropriate plans, ordinances, statutes and regulations including but not limited to:

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY

Subject

Small Wastewater Treatment Facilities

**Policy
Number**

I-78

Page

2 of 3

- County General Plan and adopted population forecasts.
- County Zoning Ordinance including Section 7362 (Major Use Permits).
- California Environmental Quality Act and County EIR Guidelines.
- The rules and regulations of the Regional Water Quality Control Board and all other affected regulatory agencies.
- County Code No. 4830, Art. 8, Sec. 68.182 (certificate of systems by the Department of Environmental Health and Department of Public Works).
- The Public Facility Element of the County General Plan.

Prior to approving a small wastewater treatment facility, one of the following findings shall be made in addition to the findings required in the Public Facility Element:

1. All projects should be located within the Urban Limit Line or within one mile of the Urban Limit Line; except that where a Specific Plan has been approved prior to August 12, 1987, and said Specific Plan contemplates such facilities, subsequent applications to implement or amend the Specific Plan shall not be subject to this finding; or
2. In the Estate and Rural Development Areas where a facility is approved, annexation and hookup to a traditional sewer system shall be prohibited until the urban limit line is extended.

The Board of Supervisors delegates to the San Diego County Planning Commission the authority to waive the locational criteria in paragraph 1 above, if the Planning Commission determines that in the particular case it would not be in the public interest to follow the policy and the following conditions are met:

- a. The proposed facility is located within the geographic boundaries of either of the two Country Town Areas as shown on the Valley Center Community Plan Map (adopted by the Board of Supervisors on April 9, 1997);
- b. The proposed facility is a community based, multi-user facility that will make sewer service available on a voluntary basis to commercial, industrial, residential, and civic/public

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS POLICY

Subject

Small Wastewater Treatment Facilities

**Policy
Number**

I-78

Page

3 of 3

uses. Capital costs of the proposed facility will be shared by those designated to receive sewer service; and

c. The proposed facility will be operated by the Valley Center Municipal Water District or another public agency authorized to provide sewer service.

A decision by the Planning Commission denying a waiver request may be appealed to the Board of Supervisors by filing a written appeal either at the Department of Planning and Land Use or at the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors within ten days following the decision.

Note: This policy does not apply to single owner-single user on-site wastewater disposal systems.

Sunset Date

This policy will be reviewed for continuance by December 31, 2003.

Board Action

12-19-79 (25)

12-11-84 (18)

8-12-87 (11)

7-26-88 (43)

12-12-89 (49)

5-22-90 (80)

3-13-91 (2)

11-17-99 (3)

1. Department of Public Works
2. Department of Planning and Land Use
3. Department of Environmental Health